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Worldwide Report

TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

No. 169

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FINNISH FIRM DEVELOPS GROUND STATION PART FOR USSR SATELLITE

Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 26 May 81 p 30

[Article: "Teleste's New Technology: Satellite Pictures Directly on the Television Screen."]

[Text] The teleste company of Turku has received a signal from the Soviet horizon satellite. Teleste is developing receiving equipment for direct reception of TV satellite broadcasting. The Soviet satellite is opening new markets for the equipment.

The Soviets have their TV satellite above the equator. The satellite was made operational already before the Olympics in Moscow, but there was not much talk about it in the Western countries. The satellite transmits programs from the central television of Moscow to the Baltic countries and also to Cuba. The Soviet TV satellite is a so-called transmitter satellite. It transmits programs from the sending point to the television stations and that way to the receivers.

By means of the satellite receiver equipment developed by Teleste it is, however, possible to receive the broadcasts from the transmitter satellite directly without large receiver and television stations.

Teleste has also gone commercial with its equipment. This kind of equipment, worth about 200,000 Finnish marks has been sold to, among others, the Embassy of France in Denmark. By means of satellite transmission the embassy can thus follow French television programs. Television broadcasts from the French OTS satellite were received at Teleste already a year ago for the first time.

The actual direct broadcasting satellites will be out in 2 or 3 years' time. Teleste will, however, begin to deliver these large receiver units already this year. In the beginning the unit will be sold to, among others, the embassies and the authorities of the Nordic countries and Central Europe.

9662
CSO: 5500/2217

BRIEFS

HUNGARY, MONGOLIA SIGN--A Hungarian-Mongolian news agency agreement was signed by (Sereeterijn Purevzhav), chairman of the MPR's State Information, Radio and Television Committee and director general of the Mongolian News Agency MONCAME, and Erno Lakatos, MTI director general, at the MTI center on Friday. [Text] [Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 23 May 81 p 8]

HUNGARY, AFGHANISTAN SIGN RADIO AGREEMENT--A Hungarian-Afghan radio agreement was signed in Budapest by the presidents of the two institutions, Istvan Hars and (Latif Nazimi). The 5-year agreement provides for, among other things, regular program exchanges and visits for exchanges of experience. [Text] [LD171682 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1500 GMT 17 Jun 81]

UK, INDIA SATELLITE PROGRAM PROPOSED--India and Britain propose to collaborate in a satellite launching program. A highpowered Indian delegation recently visited Britain to explore the possibilities of such a collaboration. This was stated by Director of Indian Satellite Research Organization Prof U.R. Rao in Bangalore. About the functioning of Rohini, he said the date received so far from the satellite is very satisfactory. The satellite would now be commanded to change its orientation so that the camera can be tuned for taking photographs of wider areas. The launching of another Indian satellite, Apple, from French Guinea is scheduled for the 19th of this month. Apple would be launched by the European Space Agency to obtain data regarding minerals, hydrology and environmental changes. Professor Rao will attend the launching ceremony. [Text] [BK030911 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Jun 81]

CSO: 5500

ASIAN NEWS NETWORK TO BE LAUNCHED

BK081011 Hong Kong AFP in English 0933 GMT 8 Jun 81

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 8 Jun (AFP)--Asian interpretation of Asian news will be available by the end of the year with the launching of the Asian News Network (ANN), it was reported here today.

The launching of ANN is expected to be announced after the general meeting of the Organization of Asian News Agencies in October, Information Minister Datuk Mohamad Rahmat said.

He said the network will be formed to promote cooperation in news coverage among Asian countries and to correct the imbalance of news flow presently monopolised by Western news agencies.

On whether the network would overlap the role of BERNAMA, the Malaysian National News Agency, the minister said: "BERNAMA has a bilateral relationship with other Asian news agencies. The network will act as a coordinating body between all news agencies."

The formation of the Asian News Network was first suggested after a report by specialists commissioned from the International Telecommunications Union and the Press Trust of India was submitted to the technical committee overseeing the matter when it met in Jakarta in April this year.

It was first scheduled to hold its inaugural meeting in Kuala Lumpur this month, but was postponed to August.

The meeting of OANA [Organization of Asian News Agencies] to decide on the launching will also discuss expansion plans to include more member countries.

CSO: 5500/2230

PROBLEMS OF NATION'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOLD

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 17 May 81 pp 1, 4

[Article by Maqsud Ali Khan and Anwarul Huq, member and director, respectively of the B. T. & T. Board (Maintenance and Operation)]

[Text] Immediately after installation of telecommunication equipment and the networks, the maintenance and operation of the equipment comes into the picture. However, sophisticated and modern telecommunication equipment can be if cannot give better performance unless it is properly maintained and operated. [as published] Therefore, operation and maintenance of telecommunication network plays a very important role in providing telecommunication services to the people.

Telecommunication network can be broadly grouped into 2 (two) main classes i.e. National and International. The communication media of national network in our country are:

a) Local telephone exchanges.
b) Overhead land lines.
c) Underground cables and
d) VHF, UHF and Microwave Radio Communication.

For International Communication formerly HF system was extensively used. At present Satellite Ground Station at Betbunia is the primary media of International Communication i.e. (1) Speech, (2) Telegraph/Telex, (3) Television. One more Satellite Ground Station is under construction of Talibabad near Kaliakoir 32 miles from Dacca.

At present 49 Automatic Exchanges and 313 Manual Exchanges are operating inside the country to provide 1,29,608 subscribers. These Automatic Exchanges are mostly of 2 (two) types:

1) Consisting of Old F-1 switching system which has become completely obsolete within the country where it is manufactured. With great difficulty spares are procured.

2) The other type are relatively modern EMD switching system. These are being manufactured in Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Tongi Dacca. Spares for these are not difficult to obtain as most of the components are manufactured in Bangladesh. However, some of the sophisticated equipment are still to be imported from abroad.

Both these two types of Exchanges are electro-mechanical Exchanges. As their operation are depended on electro-mechanical function of different parts constituting these Exchanges, operation and maintenance of these exchanges large number of skilled people are required as wear and tear of moving parts requires constant attention. Large number of smilled [as published] manpower is always a problem for Bangladesh T&T Board as T&T Board has to recruit and train the operational and maintenance personnel for these Exchanges. The Training Centres which were virtually in nonexistence at the time of liberation, are now being set up gradually, is not being able to cope with the demand of services. It is also very expensive to run these Exchanges as maintenance and replacement of electro-mechanical parts consume lot of maintenance fund. Faulty operation of electro-mechanical parts give rise to cross connection and wrong connections.

In view of draw back of electro-mechanical switching system, the world has switched over to Electronic Exchanges. Many of the developed and developing countries are extensively using Electronic Exchanges. From the point of view of providing facilities to the subscribers and trouble free services and specially from the point of view of low maintenance cost and requirement of very few maintenance personnel. Electronic Exchange is very ideal. Bangladesh T&T Board has recently placed order for Nationwide Dialling Exchanges and International Trunk Exchange of latest electronic type.

The Manual Exchanges working in the country are of 2 (two) types:

1) Magneto Exchange: Which is a local battery system in which battery is provided at the subscriber's premises and the Exchange operator is called by the subscriber by cranking a handle.

2) Another type of Central Battery System in which battery is provided from the Exchange and attention of the operator is drawn by the subscriber by lifting of the hand set. These are very old type of Exchange and the parts of these. Exchanges are not readily available. Therefore, maintenance of these Exchanges are somewhat difficult. However, there being some moving parts in these Exchanges there is less demand of maintenance service. However, waiting for an operator to connect the calls is undesirable for the subscribers and the Manual Exchange subscribers always prefer Automatic Exchange facilities Bangladesh T&T Board has taken up a programme of gradual replacement of all the Magneto Exchanges by Automatic Exchanges, and in view of the Government policy to implement Rural Electrification Programme vigorously, this will help in achieving of this objectives of T&T Board in near future.

Maintenance and operation of a local telephone system is greatly depended on the external cable networks of the Exchanges. In large cities cables which have been laid were beside the road and due to expansion of the road these cables are now under the main road which it is difficult to maintain in case of trouble. In cities lot of development activities of other Agencies like WASA, Electricity, Gas Companies are causing damage to the cables and which are difficult to detect and if detected is very difficult to rectify the fault because of the fact that the cables are under the main roads. In cities like Dacca where initially the cables were laid for old Manual exchanges are of 25 years old. Many of the cables needs replacement. This will not only require huge amount of fund but also require huge quantity of cables to be procured and also great public inconvenience in road cutting to lay the cables. But this cannot be ignored because these defective cables are the cause of creating faults for cross-connection, disconnection of telephone conversation, wrong connection, noise in the telephone service etc.

Of all the means and media of long distance communication in the national telecommunication network, overhead land line communication is the oldest. Operation and maintenance of these old system is the main headache of Bangladesh T&T Board. Due to many reasons it is very difficult to do away with this type of communication in Bangladesh, although in many advanced countries, these systems are no longer in existence. A large part of T&T Board's lower grade staff are engaged and employed to keep this old system in working condition and huge amount of maintenance funds are spent for upkeeping and maintenance of land lines. Bangladesh is a reverine country; cross country overhead long lines become easy victims of natures' fury like hail storms, flood, tidal waves tornedo etc. In many parts of the country land lines some time go under water during flood season. Another major headache is the theft of wires of over head lines throughout the country. T&T Board has neither machinery nor manpower to tackle this problem. Numbers of theft cases of overhead lines in rural areas are on increase. This is in turn is causing [as published] huge dislocation of long distance telecommunication for days and months together as T&T Board cannot manage in supplying wires and other stores for such huge and frequent theft. Moreover, the funds available for maintenance and operation are also limited and cannot cope up with actual requirement.

The other means of communication in long distance National Telecommunication network are VHF UHF and Microwave. VHF equipment are gradually taken out of service. The latest equipment, like UHF and Microwave are now being introduced. They are performing very nicely but some time the spare parts which are always to be imported causes some trouble. Moreover, all these stations are not properly air-conditioned which give rise to blowing out of electronic components. Moreover, occasional fluctuation of electrical system also causes damage to these sophisticated electronic equipment. However, the maintenance problem of radio wireless system for long distance communication is much simpler. Here also requisite technical background for the staff employed to do this field maintenance on the delicated and complicated [as published] equipment is very essential. Job training in each specialised system is pre-requisite for ensuring better handling and maintenance of this system. The training Centres which were virtually none-existence and now are coming up gradually and is yet to be in proper capacity to train the required number of people for such maintenance. [as published]

Among the microwave System, Dacca-Chittagong and Dacca-Kushtia-Khulna Microwave System by this time become very old and needs immediate replacement as they have already crossed 10 (ten) years period. Moreover, these two systems were commissioned without the help of the supplier and Installer who left during the liberation war, and also with the damaged equipment, damaged during liberation war.

In the Telegraph Service there are 3 (three) Auto Telex Exchanges. One in Dacca and other two in Chittagong and Khulna with one Automatic Overseas Board located at Dacca Recently T&T Board is going to commission a Electronic Automatic Exchange having international and national connections at Dacca. Maintenance of these Telex Exchanges is also a problem for T&T Board because at the moment there are 3 (three) different types of Exchanges:

(1) Old F-1 type called TW-39 for which spare parts are not available.
(2) TWK 9. This is a semi-electronic Siemens manufactured Exchange.
(3) Under installation: Nidex Electronic Exchange.

The teleprinter machine for Telex Exchanges and for Telegraph services consists of 3 (three) types:

1) East German manufactured machines.
2) West German machine T-100 and
3) West German machine T-1000.

The teleprinter machines of East Germany some how or could not successfully function in Bangladesh. [as published] They are now being gradually replaced. T-1000 is a latest Electronic Teleprinter machine but is very sensitive to electrical fluctuations. Many of the teleprinter machines specially in rural areas have blown out due to power fluctuation.

There used to be very old teleprinter machine called 68D of West Germany in use for about 15 to 20 years in Bangladesh. These machines were running without spares for the last 10 years as these have become obsolete. As a result many of the telegraph circuits remain out of order and the telegrams need to be sent by post in large quantities. All these machines have new been replaced by the latest T-1000 Teleprinter Machines. [as published] However, skilled technical knowledge both theoretical and practical is necessary in handling these equipment. Proper tools and test gears and maintenance personnel are still required to be arranged adequately specially because of very frequent blow-out of teleprinter machines due to fluctuation of power supply.

Telecommunication is a vital service to the Nation and as such maintenance and operation of telecommunication equipment and its network is of great importance. This can only to be performed with proper prior maintenance programme backed by adequate supply of spares, maintenance funds and proper programme of replacement of old wornout equipments. The F-1 Exchanges have served their lives long ago and now be replaced. The Dacca-Chittagong and Dacca-Kushtia-Khulna Microwave System as proposed earlier should now be replaced. The defective cables of large cities of Dacca, Chittagong and other places be replaced. Only then T&T Board can boldly go forward to provide the service up to the satisfaction of the subscribers which is the ultimate objective. In the 2nd 5 Year Plan, T&T Board has taken up a tentative programme of replacement of old Auto Exchanges installation of manual and auto exchange and introduction of Nationwide Dialling System to improve the telecommunication services of Bangladesh considerably during this period.

CSO: 5500

DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY'S MICROWAVE SYSTEM DESCRIBED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 17 May 81 p 1

[Article by Kazi Rezaur Rahman, director, International]

[Text] Long distance telecommunication through microwave system plays a vital role in telecommuniation in Bangladesh. Nowadays, high tower lights of microwave stations of majority of the cities and some small towns reminds the people that one can soundly communicate his distance relatives through this system. Today lacs of television viewers know that microwave systems carry the TV signals from one TV broadcasting station another. [as published]

In early days, telecommunication was possible only through wire which were later supplemented by wireless communication. Wireless communication grew very rapidly and was modified and developed from one system to another for better performance and higher capacity and as early as thirtees, communication through microwave system was invented. Communication through microwave system was however, widely used since fifties and proved to be reliable and satisfactory means.

In our country telecommunication through wire was firstly supplemented by HF and VHF (very high frequency) system as early as fifties. In 1970, first microwave system having 960 channel capacity was commissioned in Dacca-Chittagong and Dacca-Kushtia/Khulna routes (Lankert Electric of USA). In 1975-76, Dacca-Sylhet and Dacca-Bogra/Mymensingh microwave links (Toshiba, Japan) were commissioned. In 1978-79, Chittagong-Cox's Bazar (GTE) Rangamati-Betbunia (GTE) link were established: along with the Betbunia satellite earth station. Lately during 1980/81 the major link Chuadanga to Thakurgoan/Atwari, Khulna-Barisal and Comilia-Hajigonj have been established.

From the mashroom of country's main and some microwave system together with the spur UHF/VHF system we can find (in fig-1) that almost all of the towns upto subdivisions are now connected with higher and medium capacity wireless communication. To at least subdivision level it can now be achieved to any standard level of communication if proper maintenance of these systems are secured.

The terrestrial microwave system in Bangladesh does not only cater the need of inland long distance communication but also facilitates the overseas communication via satellite earth station at Betbunia. The microwave link between Chuadanga and Krishnanagar India established recently connects Dacca to Calcutta with all microwave system and thereby improves the telecommunication between these two countries. The new link (microwave cum UHF) to be commissioned recently between Bangladesh and Nepal will substantially improve the communication between these two neighbouring countries.

The high capacity microwave system of Bangladesh is used not only for Telephone and Telegram transmission but also used for transmission of television signals from one station to another. Thus televisions signals are transmitted to an from all the seven existing TV broadcasting stations through microwave system and this will also cater for the TV stations to come. [as published]

The advantages of microwave system over existing UHF and VHF system of communication are higher capacity more reliability and better performance and also enabling of transmission of television signals. Since this is a line-of-sight communication using repeater stations at a nominal distance of 30 miles (50 KM) gives even better performance over satellite system for inland communication of reasonable distance. Alternate to microwave system is the high capacity coaxial cable system but for many reasons to others microwave system has proved to be the best solution particularly for the riverine country like Bangladesh which has narrow roads with full of culvert/bridges and also ferry crossing. Since all of our microwave stations need have either dropping or terminal facility as almost every points on our land has got sufficient population demanding the need of telecommunication microwave system of communication is the best way of communicating one point to another in Bangladesh.

Today we have as many as 18 districts headquarters out of 20, are connected with microwave system and all sub-divisional headquarters are connected directly or indirectly (through signal top UHF/VHF systems) with the national high capacity microwave links.

The future plan to be completed during 1981-85 includes new system of microwave communication (high and low capacity) to be introduced between Barisal-Chittagong-Jamalpur-Mymensingh-Kishoregonj-Habigonj-Moulivi Bazar, Gaibanda-Rangpur-Syedpur, Barisal-Potuskhali and replacement of the old system between Dacca-Chittagong and Dacca-Khulna/Kushtia after these implementation country's long distance communication shall greatly be improved.

CSO: 5500

WIRELESS ADVISER DESCRIBES RADIO FREQUENCY PLAN

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 May 81 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 28: Radio frequency spectrum has become an invisible, powerful national but limited resource in view of the range of short wave band and space applications for developing countries and, for making its best use, a national allocation plan has been formulated.

The resource is limited as developed countries have already taken a major share and India is pursuing its efforts for an equitable redistribution at world forums.

Apart from communications, which itself is a vital sector, the government feels a more rationed use could secure better gains for its economic development through satellite programmes.

Mr. T. V. Srirangan, wireless adviser to the government, told newsmen today, that the national plan, which came into force a month ago, would seek to promote efforts for indigenous design, development and manufacture as also use various type of radio communication equipment by government and other agencies.

The plan also prescribes technical parameters for usages with a view to ensuring efficient exploitation of the spectrum. The plan also makes possible speedier co-ordination of frequency authorisations among various users like broadcasting, defence, communications remote sensing and the like.

Mr. Srirangan said a self-contained computer terminal has been commissioned in the wireless planning and co-ordination (WPC) wing to deal with spectrum management functions on rational lines.

A major programme of modernisation and expansion of technical support facilities for field monitoring and inspection is under implementation by the WPC. The government has set apart Rs. 8 crores for the purpose in the sixth plan as against Rs. 1 crore in the fifth plan.

CSO: 5500/7122

BRIEFS

NEWS AGENCIES LINK--Colombo--The premier news agencies of India and Sri Lanka--the PTI and Lanka Puvath--were linked through satellite on Friday. The two will exchange news services. The Colombo-Bombay two-way channel was inaugurated with the push of a button at a simple ceremony by the Minister of State. Mr Anandtissa De Alwis, at the Lanka Puvath office.--PTI [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 31 May 81 p 12]

RADIO FREQUENCY MONITORING--New Delhi, May 28--The Wireless Planning and Coordination (WPC) wing of the Union Ministry of Communications is implementing a major programme for modernisation and expansion of the technical support facilities for the monitoring and inspection of the spectrum of radio frequencies. The WPC is trying to ensure that the limited radio frequency spectrum is put to proper and increasing use so that the best could be got out of it, Mr. T. V. Srirangan, Wireless Adviser to the Government of India told pressmen today. The WPC has a network of monitoring organisations with 19 monitoring stations, to which two more will be added. There will be four units for the monitoring of microwave transmissions. There is also a proposal to create special facilities for the monitoring of emissions from the geostationary orbit when the indian national satellite (INSAT) goes into orbit next year. [Excerpt] [Madras THE HINDU in English 31 May 81 p 3]

CYCLONE WARNING RADAR--Machilipatnam, May 21--The S-band type cyclone warning radar covering about 450 km radius is being installed at Machilipatnam, a cyclone-prone area. The Rs. 40-lakh radar, stated to be the first of its kind, has been imported from the United States. Technical experts from the U.S. are expected here during this month to help in the installation of the equipment in a new building and impart training. The radio-sound equipment functioning at present at Gannavaram airport, will be shifted soon to the new building for covering the forecast of "upper-air atmospheric conditions." The meteorological observatory will also move to the new building.--PTI [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 22 May 81 p 9]

ARVI TELECOM CHANNELS--All telecommunication channels carried by Vikram earth satellite station at Arvi have been rerouted via Ahmed earth station near Dehra Dun for four weeks since 18 May, reports UNI. This was necessitated because of the refitting the Arvi station for operation of INTELSAT satellites. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 26 May 81 p 5]

PANEL ON COMMUNICATIONS IMPROVEMENT--New Delhi, May 27--The government today named a committee of experts to suggest within three months steps to improve the operational, technological and managerial efficiency of the telecommunications system. The chairman of the eight-member high-powered committee, Mr. H. C. Sarin, a former defence secretary, will hold full-time office with the rank of a minister of state. However, the others will work on a part-time basis and have the status of a government secretary. Though a three-month limit has been set for submitting its recommendations, the committee could, if necessary, present interim reports. In a parallel effort, the communications minister, Mr. C. M. Stephen, had been holding discussions with the general managers of telecom units on toning up the services about which there have been constant complaints. The proposed committee is entirely composed of experts concerned with one or more of the aspects of the telecommunications system. Besides Mr. Sarin, the committee consists of Mr. S. M. Agarwal, communications engineer and former secretary in the ministry, Mr. C. P. Vasudevan, a former member of the P and T board, Mr. Ravi Mathai, management expert, Dr. Man Mohan Singh, member-secretary of the planning commission, Mr. D.P.P. Gupta, secretary to the department of electronics, Mr. C.S. Swaminathan, secretary to the department of mines, and Mr. M. M. Kini, a member of the P and T Board. Mr. Kini will be the member-secretary. While the government had initiated several measures to improve the services, in appointing the committee it was prompted by the need for a comprehensive review, of the functioning of the services. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 May 81 p 14]

TV MICROWAVE CIRCUIT PLANS--Pune, May 27 (PTI)--Information and Broadcasting Minister Vasant Sathe today hoped that the television network through microwave links would be possible within two or three years between Bombay and Delhi, Delhi and Calcutta and Calcutta and Bombay via Nagpur. Mr Sathe said his ministry had already invested its own funds with the Communication Ministry to have the micro-wave links with broad bands that could carry television signals. A similar link with television facility was already in operation between Bombay and Madras and the work on other links was being expedited, he added. Mr Sathe said a proposal to convert the educational television center of the Film and Television Institute of India here into full-fledged studios capable of handling independent television telecast from Pune was already on cards. He said he would look into the problem of frequent disturbances in Pune relay telecast due to foreign intervention during the pre-monsoon period. He was informed by television engineers that the micro-wave link between Bombay and Pune which could eliminate the problems of aerial relay was already installed by the P and T Department but it had not been commissioned due to some technical snags. He said he would take up the matter with the Communications Ministry and request them to expedite the work. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 May 81 p 5]

CSO: 5500

BRIEFS

MICROWAVE EXPANSION PROJECT--A contract for the expansion of the Java-Bali microwave system was signed between the directorate general of Post and Telecommunications and Japan's Sumitomo Corporation. The expansion project is expected to be completed in 22 months time at a cost of 2.68 billion yen to be acquired from the Japanese Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund and another 802 million rupiah from the Post and Telecommunications Corporation's proposed projected fund. The expansion project will consist of an additional radio frequency bearer which would increase the capacity of the 960 main channels with an additional 3,720 inter-city channels from the present 4,680 to 8,400 inter-city channels in Java and Bali, considered to be sufficient for the operation of the long distance direct connections until 1985. [BK090345 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 4 Jun 81]

CSO: 5500/2230

BRIEFS

NEWS EXCHANGE EXTENDS PROGRAM—Kuantan, 16 Jun (ANTARA/BERNAMA/OANA)--Malaysia will extend its news exchange programme to include the European Economic Community (EEC) countries in efforts to enhance its image in the eyes of the world, Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today. Speaking to reporters here, he said that at the moment there was already such a programme on a limited scale among ASEAN countries. The programme enabled the countries to improve people-to-people communication and further strengthened unity among them, he said. Datuk Mohamed also said the Asian and Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) had approved a resolution at its last meeting on the implementation of a similar programme among its members. [Text] [BK170911 Jakarta OANA in English 0806 GMT 17 Jun 81]

CSO: 5500/2230

POST OFFICE RECOMMENDS NEW SATELLITE RECEIVING STATION

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 15 May 81 p 7

/Text/

A new $12 million satellite receiving station could be built at Warkworth in 1983 if recommendations made by Post Office engineers are accepted by the cabinet.

The new station would help to take pressure off New Zealand's only existing station, also at Warkworth.

The superintending engineer international services at post office headquarters, Mr Neville Wishart, said that international traffic such as telephone services, telex and television had increased in volume by about 40 per cent last year, well above the usual 20 to 25 per cent rate of growth.

He said the existing station was coping but the recommendation was to ensure the service would continue to cope.

Another reason for the new station is that new satellites will be introduced in 1984. According to post office estimates it will cost $5 million to alter the existing station. The station would have to be closed down while the changes were made.

Without the new station as a backup 40 per cent of New Zealand's international communications capacity will be lost during the alterations.

CSO: 5500

BRIEFS

RURAL AREAS TELECOMMUNICATION PLAN--Muzaffargarh, May 30--Over 200 public call offices will be opened in Punjab under a three-year phased programme to provide telecommunication facilities to rural population and backward areas. It was stated here by Mr Daud Siddiqui, General Manager, Telegraph and Telephone at the opening ceremony of the local autoexchange of 600 lines completed at a cost of Rs 520 crore including Rs 50 lakh of installation expenses. He said that 320 telephones exchange were commissioning and over 500 public call offices were providing telecommunication facilities to the people of far flung areas. Mr Siddiqui said that more than 5000 telephone connections were installed in the Punjab with an expenditure of Rs 125 million this year at Leih Kot Adu, Muzaffargarh Industrial Estate, Multan, Sahiwal, Faisalabad (Sargodha Road) Kamoki, Toba Tek Singh, Gujar Khan and Hasan Abdal. He said that Telephone Department has set up many exchanges in Muzaffargarh district including auto exchanges at Leih of 400 lines Kot Adu (300), Muzaffargarh (600) manual exchange at Permit Chowk (24) Khangarh (50) Kot Sultan (100) Karor Laliesan (100) Rohillan Wali (10) Gujerat 50. He assured that Muzaffargarh will be connected with 50 cities of Multan next month while it would be interlinked with 50 cities of the country on nation-wide dialling.--PPI. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 31 May 81 p 4]

NEW BALUCHISTAN RADIO STATION--The Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation's [PBC] Khuzdar station has started functioning from 17 June. This is the third radio station in Baluchistan and the 15th in the country. The PBC director general said in an address on the occasion that Khuzdar radio station would preliminarily carry out 5 hours of radio program daily. A Radio Pakistan correspondent said that the station had been completed with a cost of more than 1.3 million rupees including 700,000 rupees worth of equipment gifted by Australia. [BK171313 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 17 Jun 81]

CSO: 5500/2230

BRIEFS

SATELLITE GROUND STATION--The cabinet has approved an 11 million baht budget for the setting up of a satellite ground station with direct link with Palapa Satellite of Indonesia. The Post and Telegraph Department will spend this year 1,725,000 baht from its own budget to purchase equipment for the system. The rest will be spent from next year's budget. [Text] [BK1312225 Bangkok Domestic Service in English 0000 GMT 10 Jun 81]

CSO: 5500/2230

POST, TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK EXPANDS

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 13 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] By the end of the first quarter of 1981, the post and communications network has organized the setting up of post and telecommunications stations in 7,250 villages out of a total of 8,521. The provinces and cities from Binh Tri Thien northward have basically completed the organization of post and telecommunications stations in villages.

The telegraphic communications network has also been expanded. During the first quarter, poles were planted covering a distance of 734 kms together with a length of 3,743 kms of dual wires, 17 more telephonic channels and 7 more telegraphic channels were established, and 120 new switchboards of different types and 2,511 new telephones including 1,500 automatic ones installed. A number of telephonic and microwave carrier lines and channels have been broadened such as those from Nha Trang to Thuan Hai and Ho Chi Minh City, from Hanoi to Haiphong and so forth. Compared with the first quarter of 1980, the serviceability and clearance of telephonic lines have become more satisfactory, showing an increase rate of 5 percent for the international telephonic lines and 1 percent for the domestic ones. The volume of service rendered has increased by 38 percent (in terms of minutes) for the outgoing international Telex and by 115 percent for the incoming one. The international telegraphic volume has increased by 152 percent and the international telephonic one by 66 percent.

The post and telecommunications sector has studied and reorganized the microwave exploitation system, which has resulted in a smoother retention and release of the telecommunications volume. The sector has also consolidated and repaired its networks, strengthened their equipment and established additional telecommunications lines to promote the election of the Seventh National Assembly and the convening of the Fifth Party Congress.

9332
CSO: 5500/4580

BRIEFS

RADIO STATION AUTHORIZED--President Joao Figueiredo has issued a decree authorizing the company Radio Jornal de Souza Ltd to operate a medium wave radio station in the town of Souza, Paraiba State. [PY171440 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 16 Jun 81]

CSO: 5500/2237

PRIVATE TELEPHONE COMPANY BEGINS OPERATION IN JULY

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 16 May 81 p C-11

[Text] The private telephone company CMET [expansion unknown] will officially go into operation at the end of July as the result of an interconnection agreement signed with the Chilean Telephone Company (CTC) yesterday morning.

The agreement establishes the connection of 6,000 lines: 4,500 at the Pedro de Valdivia central for the Providencia sector and 1,500 at the Vina del Mar central for the Vergara, Concon and Renaca sector.

The interconnection will be made in three phases: The first involves 500 lines in Santiago and should be completed in July. In September, another 500 lines will be connected in the capital, along with the first 250 in Region 5. The operation will be completed in December with connection of the remaining lines.

Another point included in the agreement is the cash payment by the CMET to the Chilean Telephone Company of $1.5 million. When the system goes into operation, the private company will pay the CTC 39 pesos per interconnected line every month.

Sergio Moller, general manager of the CTC and one of the signers of the agreement, said that "for the first time, a national telephone company is entering into a complete agreement with a private firm, one covering all the technical, economic and commercial aspects."

At the same time, Moller emphasized that the contract signed a month ago with the Manquehue Company has some points that have not yet been worked out because "this is an agreement of intentions."

Good Deal

When asked whether it would be more profitable for the CTC to put the 6,000 lines in Providencia instead of turning them over to a private enterprise, Moller said that "actually, it would be, but this is still not a bad deal because our company will always collect for every line interconnected into the system."

He stated that this does not mean that the CTC has ended its expansion programs because in the Apoquindo, Las Condes and Pedro de Valdivia sector alone, it is contemplating the installation of 20,000 new lines in 1982.

Total Project

For his part, Rafael Barra, general manager of the CMET, said that the total investment which the enterprise has made in the project, involving the installation of 25,000 lines between now and 1982, has been $39 million.

He also said that the companies has two centrals: one on Los Leones, already totally set up, and another on Calle Holanda, which is about to go into operation. In addition, all underground cables have been laid and only the setting of poles for overhead cables remains to be done.

"We are offering our users a telephone line in Providencia with the possibility of communicating with anyone in the country or the entire world. This is possible thanks to another agreement we signed with ENTEL-Chile [National Telecommunications Enterprise of Chile]," he said.

Barra added that the associated service, including automatic centrals, special systems making it possible to speak from three telephones simultaneously through a single line, and other sophisticated services, are the responsibility of RABKO [expansion unknown], which belongs to the CMET partners.

Manquehue Telephone

Another telephone company which will go into operation in July is Manquehue, whose executives signed an agreement of intentions with the Chilean Telephone Company a month ago.

The agreement establishes the interconnection of 250 lines for the initial phase and 4,750 for the second phase, which will be completed in November of this year.

The total operation demands an investment of $7.5 million.

According to Luis Alberto Humphrey, general manager of Manquehue, the first 250 lines will be for subscribers in the Santa Maria de Manquehue sector, who have first priority.

The cost of a telephone line is 47 development units -- that is, 54,800 pesos.

Humphrey said that there are still problems, however. The Chilean Telephone Company has initiated a new study of the economic aspects of the agreement.

"We sent a letter to the CTC asking for a rapid ruling. If there is no response by Monday, we shall appeal to the Office of Undersecretary of Telecommunications and if that is not enough, we shall go to the National Economic Auditing Office," he said.

That organization has been at work for several weeks analyzing a similar problem presented by the CMET.

11,464
CSO: 5500/2218

KUWAIT

SATELLITE STATION TO BE COMPLETED NEXT YEAR

GF171053 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 17 Jun 81 p 6

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Jun (KUNA)--"Kuwait's new satellite station will be completed next year," Communications Assistant Under Secretary Engineer 'Abdalla as-Sabigh said today.

The station will provide advanced facilities for television and radio programming as well as improved telex, telephones and photo transmission services.

When "ARABSAT" is launched later in 1983, every Arab country would be needing such a station as-Sabigh added.

The Arab project will be started by launching three satellites, two Libya while the third will stand by.

Two observation units will be established in Saudi Arabia and North Africa, the under secretary said in a press interview.

The idea of launching an Arab satellite was initiated by Kuwait. The project of "ARABSAT" is a joint venture among countries of the region and Kuwait is holding an 8.4 percent capital share.

In addition to its participation in the Arab project, Kuwait is building her own station for training Kuwaiti nationals on telecommunications techniques.

All Arab countries, except Egypt, are joint owners of the project, the communications under secretary said.

In cooperation with international experts in telecommunications fields, ARABSAT will engage in constructing satellite stations to member nations, he added.

CSO: 5500/2230

SECOND SATELLITE LINK PLANNED

GF211056 Doha GULF TIMES in English 21 Jun 81 p 3

[Article by staff reporter]

[Text] Doha--Qatar's Ministry of Communications and Transport is considering bids by several international companies for the state's second satellite earth station to be built at Mukaynis, 45 km south of Doha.

The second station--the Atlantic Ocean satellite earth station--will be located next to the existing Indian Ocean satellite station to save on technical manpower and other sundry technological facilities.

With 960 channels, the new station will boost Qatar's television, telephone and other communications with the West and the American continent "enormously." The existing station also has 960 channels but only 140 of these are operative.

Mr Fa'ud 'Abbas, head of the engineering section at the Ministry of Communications, says that Qatar's communications to the West at present routes via London. But the operation is so swift and fully automatic that the caller does not realize it.

The new station would facilitate direct access to the United States and communications will become more economical, Mr 'Abbas told DAILY GULF TIMES.

Asked whether it was a joint project with the United States, Mr 'Abbas said the United States had nothing to do with it.

The project is entirely Qatari. Qatar will bear the cost of it.

Qatar is a member of INTELSAT--an international organization for satellites which launches satellites into orbit and controls satellite traffic.

Mr 'Abbas said the world is divided into three satellite zones--the Indian Ocean zone, the Atlantic Ocean zone and the Pacific region. Countries wanting to boost communications with a region position their earth station dishes facing to that region. Qatar's existing satellite station tower is faced toward the Indian Ocean.

The new station's tower will be faced toward the satellites orbitting in the Atlantic region.

The project, which is likely to get off the ground by the year end or early next year, will be ready for operation by the end of 1983.

CSO: 5500/2230

ACCORD SIGNED FOR ARAB SATELLITE PROJECT

Jiddah ARAB NEWS in English 26 May 81 p 2

[Text] RIYADH, May 25 (SPA) — A $134 million contract was signed at the Arab Space Telecommunications Authority's headquarters here Monday for building the Arab satellite which is expected to go into orbit by 1983. The contract was awarded to the French Aerospaciale company.

The contract was signed by Dr. Ali Al-Mashat, the Arab Space Telecommunications Authority director general and Jacques Mitterrand, Aerospaciale chairman. The signing ceremony also was attended by Posts, Telegraph and Telephones Minister Dr. Alawi Darwish Kayyal and Jordanian Communications Minister Dr. Muhammad Adoub Al-Zabn, the current chairman of the Arab Space Telecommunications Authority general council.

Dr. Zabn said in a statement at the signing ceremony that the Arabsat project comprises building three satellites. Each satellite will have 26 channels that will provide 8,000 telephone circuits, seven television channels and one joint television channel.

Dr. Kayyal also spoke at the ceremony and expressed his pleasure at the signing of the contract. He described the projects as an "economic developement project" and said that it will link the Arab states culturally, socially, educationally and in the health field. He added that the project will provide telephone, telex and telegraphic communications in addition to television and radio broadcasting among Arab countries.

He expressed the hope that the project would be a start toward further strengthening of cooperation between Arab states and France. He also directed his thanks to "all who contributed toward the realization of this project."

Arab countries taking part in the project include Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait, Syria, Tunisia, Qatar, the UAE, Algeria, Morocco, Lebanon, Mauritania, Iraq and Djibouti.

The Arabsat is based in Riyadh where the government donated a site for the headquarters. When in full swing it will handle up to 12,000 inter-Arab telephone and telex calls at once — meeting the Arab world's needs until 1990. The Arab Space Telecommunications Authority decided to call for new tenders last year because a consortium composed of British Aerospace, Matra and Tom of France was the only contender.

CSO: 5500/479

OWNERSHIP OF INTELCI PASSES TO IVORIAN STATE

Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 6 May 81 p 7

[Article by Raphael N'Guessan]

[Excerpts] The International Telecommunications of the Ivory Coast (INTELCI) is now owned exclusively by the Ivorian state. The state has in fact just bought back the shares which the French France Cable and Radio (FCR) company previously owned in the INTELCI company capital.

The agreement making the purchase effective was signed Monday afternoon by our country and the FCR, represented by its president and general director, Mr Fargette.

The agreement was ratified for the Ivory Coast by Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Kouassi Apete. In the address he delivered on this occasion, Mr Kouassi Apete briefly traced the development of the INTELCI and the cooperative efforts which made its creation possible in 1969.

INTELCI, the jewel of French-Ivorian cooperation, was provided on its establishment with an initial capital sum totaling 500 million francs, 52 percent in the hands of the Ivory Coast and 48 percent in the hands of France Cable and Radio. Six years later, in 1975, the capital was increased to 2 billion CFA francs. A redistribution of the capital at that time gave 80 percent of the shares to the Ivorian state and 20 percent to the FCR.

The agreement signed Monday afternoon confirmed the completion of the process, that is to say the total repurchase of the French shares. These shares total net assets of 1.4 billion CFA francs.

This development, as carried out and as described by the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, is consistent with the "spirit which governed the establishment of the company and its bylaws, as well."

It should be noted that some hours prior to the signing of the agreement, the INTELCI held the 23d meeting of its board of directors at its headquarters in Abidjan-Plateau, with Mr Tanoh Germain presiding.

From a study of the final report and the brief address delivered by the president of the board, it appears that the INTELCI is in satisfactory condition. In the course of the first quarter of the year it implemented the commissioning of the Abidjan-Lagos submarine link and the second Akakro antenna.

In addition, as Mr Tanoh Germain stated, the INTELCI has fulfilled the goals it set for itself for the past 10 years. Among other things it implemented the modernization of the terminal equipment, the diversification of distribution facilities and the commissioning of highly reliable modern systems (satellite, submarine cable).

With its high-capacity links (95 percent automated), the INTELCI, as the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications said, offers "very high quality service" today.

5157
CSO: 5500/5018

BRIEFS

GONGOLA, IBADAN RADIO--The Gongola State Commissioner for Economic Planning, Mr Bafte Wilberforce Juta has said that the State Government is stepping up its training programmes to reduce its dependence on "foreign experts." Mr Juta said in an interview with the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN), that more scholarships were also being awarded to indigenes for specialised studies in higher institutions. Mr Juta said it was the desire of the state government to see more indigenes participate effectively in the implementation of the fourth National Development Plan. He said the state government was establishing industrial and commercial centres in major urban areas of the state for use by entrepreneurs. He stated that the state was also taking measures to increase its involvement in poultry and animal husbandry. He further said that about eight million cattle and 522,000 chickens were immunised against various diseases during the last plan period. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English 25 May 81 p 1198] A second channel of RADIO NIGERIA, Ibadan, has gone into operation. The station will transmit mainly in English and Yoruba, and can be received on 567 kilohertz in the medium wave band. The station will transmit for eighteen and half hours daily, an official of the Radio said. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English 25 May 81 p 1198]

RADIO POLICY FLAYED--The Governor of Imo State, Chief Sam Mbakwe, has described as "utterly inexplicable" the restriction of state radio stations to medium wave transmission. In an address in Oweirri last Thursday to the 9th annual conference of chief executives of all radio stations in Nigeria, Governor Mbakwe said: "It was ridiculous that we can pick up BBC, VOICE OF AMERICA or VOICE OF ZAMBIA in Oweirri while we cannot get our brothers in Ibadan, Benin or Kaduna." Chief Mbakwe drew the attention of the radio executives to the national goals which the constitution wanted the press to uphold. "Inasmuch as the constitution gives them these responsibilities, media executives in the radio and television are often victims of circumstances outside their control resulting from the government controlling their medium," he said. [Excerpt] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 2 Jun 81 p 13]

CSO: 5500/5033

SOUTH AFRICA

BRIEFS

'RADIO SOUTH AFRICA' NEW SERVICE--The external service of the SABC, RADIO RSA, begins a new service to South America at midnight tonight. The new service in Spanish and Portuguese will be broadcast daily for about three hours, going on the air at midnight South African time [2200 GMT]. The service will include general news bulletins, news bulletins on African affairs and program material. The Portuguese broadcasts will be beamed to Brazil and the Spanish broadcasts to various other South American countries, including the Argentine, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Peru and Bolivia. It is expected, however, that the transmission may be heard as far north as the Caribbean and southern parts of the United States. [Text] [LD020948 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 1 Jun 81]

CSO: 5500/5032

BRIEFS

CHITUNGWIZA DATA SYSTEM--Chitungwiza Urban Council is to computerise its accounting and data system following the signing on Tuesday of a $184 000 agreement with the Salisbury subsidiary of an international company, a council spokesman said. Under the agreement with International Computers Limited, who will supply the ME 29 computer system, council staff will be trained in "ancillary services" to develop the system over several years. Apart from the ME 29 computer system, ICL will supply 13 terminals, to be installed at the council's four former local government areas--Zengeza, St Mary's Seke South and Seke North--to speed up transactions there, the spokesman said. The agreement was signed by Mr Robert Kambeu, for Chitungwiza Council, and Mr Claude Scott, ICL's managing director. [Text] [Salisbury THE HERALD in English 18 Jun 81 p 5]

CSO: 5500/5036

BRIEFS

SECOND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM PLANNED--Winnipeg, 18 Jun (AFP)--Canada, the first country to set up a national satellite telecommunications system, now proposes to start up another for use by companies. They will have available an integrated network handling voice, data and video signals. First trials are due a year from now and the network is to become operational early in 1983. Business firms are being sold the new service, which uses multiple access time sharing, as a way of saving time and money on phone calls, travel and cables. The technology converts words, data and video signals into digital bit packages for sending to land stations via satellites. Users can talk over the phone, move data and images and hold conferences. The banking sector is expected to find the system specially advantageous. In coming months preliminary testing will be carried out, and the accountancy side of the project brought to fruition. The first full-scale trials are scheduled for June next year and will last 6 months. During this phase three land stations located at Toronto, Calgary and Halifax will be utilized. This satellite system will be extended to the United States after opening up in Canada. [Text] [NC180737 Paris AFP in English 0721 GMT 18 Jun 81]

CSO: 5500/2230

TESTS PLANNED WITH GLASS FIBER CABLES, VIDEOPHONES

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 12 May 81 p 10

[Text] A development which is as revolutionary as dialing in its time, is in the offing in the Telecommunications Services of the Federal German Post Office: in the Central Office of the Telecommunications Technology (Darmstadt), Postmaster General Kurt Gscheidle announced the testing of a glass fiber cable system. Starting next year, 500 telephone subscribers in Berlin, Hamburg, Hannover, Duesseldorf, Stuttgart, Nuernberg and Munich will receive a "broad band connection" with which they can conduct simultaneously several telephone conversations, transmit data and drawings, receive 2 to 4 television programs and be included in 24 radio transmissions. Hundreds of participants in the test will also test the possibilities of the videophone.

The research minister and the postmaster general have made available 150 million marks for the test program "Technical Communications." If the "Telephoning with Light" system proves satisfactory, the postal services could begin the regular establishment of a glass fiber telecommunications system starting from 1986, and begin to introduce the videophone by 1990. The basic decision on the use of the glass fiber system must be made by the end of this year, according to Gscheidle's statement, so that the course may be set in time for latter mass production by the industry. Six companies are taking part in the testing of the system; their contribution will double approximately the funds provided by the Federal German Government.

An advertizing brochure says euphorically: "A new technology not only revolutionizes the telecommunications system." It adds that: "The Federal German Postal Services is adjusting to the requirements of the twenty-first century." But in this connection the postal services are not getting involved with media politics. They are confining themselves to technology.

Experiments have been conducted since the early seventies with glass fibers and laser beam instead of cooper wire and electromagnetic waves. The advantage of the new material is that it is much cheaper than copper. Glass fibers are manufactured from quartz sand. Conducted on a wide basis, the installation would not be costlier than ordinary telephone connections. As for capacity, glass fibers are far superior to all previously known methods: a million telephone conversations can be transmitted simultaneously on a glass fiber hardly thicker than a human hair.

The Federal German Post Office calls its latest achievement BIGFON. The abbreviation stands for: "Broad Band Integrated Glass Fiber Telecommunications System." The first glass fiber operating run was installed in 1979 between Frankfurt and Oberursel. Six months later the glass wire reached the private residence of a Berlin telephone subscriber. By the middle of this year, 350 telephone subscribers will be speaking "over light." A first broad band connection, which also permits reception of television, was set up last year in Berlin. Overhead glass fiber lines already connect eight mountain lodges with the telephone network in an Alpine region exposed to the danger of thunderbolts. The Federal Post Office foresees benefits in the new "telecommunication with eyes and ears" to an almost unlimited extent from the technical point of view, especially to replace copper, a raw material becoming increasingly scarce.

Furthermore the conference systems with television telephones are ushering in almost unimaginable economic possibilities. When television conferences can be organized, business trips will no longer be needed. And not to say the least, other spurs will be given to the market of communication technology from the gradual establishment of a new type of communication system. These stimuli for modernization and investments are the more significant because the Federal Post Office is hoping to achieve in this way and already by 1985, the "complete supply" of the Federal German Republic with these telephone connections. Finally it is also a matter of the German industry being able to compete on the world market. The glass fiber is not a national invention. France is going to install by 1983 a glass fiber local network in Biarritz; such experiments have already begun in Japan and Canada, and copper cables are being replaced increasingly by glass fibers in Great Britain and the United States of America.

9018
CSO: 5500/2209

MAGNETIC CARD USED FOR PUBLIC TELEPHONES IN PALERMO

Palermo GIORNALE DI SICILIA in Italian 1 May 81 p 4

[Article by Rino Canzoneri]

[Text] In Palermo as well, it will be possible from now on to use magnetic cards instead of tokens to call from public telephones. The cost to the user will not be less, since the call unit counting rate remains unchanged. Their only advantage to the user will be to eliminate the need to load one's pocket with tokens and to make dialing easier and perhaps less liable to error ("dialing" is done by means of a keyboard similar to that of a calculator); the major advantage, however, is likely to be that of being able to carry a card in one's pocket rather than having to search desperately for a token that often cannot be found.

Locations

Yesterday, two new public telephones went into operation at the Piazzale Ungheria Business Office. Next week, the SIP [Italian Telephone Company] will make five more operational: three at the Punta Raisi Airport and two at the Central [Railway] Station. No further installations are planned for this year. In fact, this operation is for the time being an experimental one. Palermo is the 15th Italian city to be equipped with this type of telephone set which costs SIP 40 times more than the normal (token) type.

The Cards

The cards are magnetic, plasticized and very small (8 cm x 5 cm). They can be inserted easily in a wallet, since they occupy less space than a 500-lire bank note. They are available in denominations of 2,000, 5,000 and 9,000 lire. Currently, they may be bought at SIP's Piazzale Ungheria Business Office and its Via Pacinotti Business Office. Beginning next week, when the new telephones go into operation, they will also be available at the airport and at the Central Station. Future sale of the cards--says SIP--will be more widespread and will be extended also to tradespeople who do not have public telephones on their premises (tobacco shops, gasoline pump stations, etc.).

How They Work

The operation is very simple and practical. After lifting off the handset (also known as the receiver) and getting the dial tone, the card is inserted from the top down, following the direction indicated by an arrow, into a slot located at the top of the set almost in the same spot as the token slot in the "old type" (as we shall call it for the purpose of easy differentiation) telephone.

A display indicates immediately the value of the card (2,000, 5,000 or 9,000 lire). If a call is made within the city, the card is returned to the user with its value reduced by 100 lire, which is the cost of one call unit: 1,900 lire, for example, in the case of a 2,000-lire card. It can be used again for 19 additional local calls.

In the case of a long distance call, the display will show the value of the card--2,000 lire, for example--reducing it in steps of 100 lire until its value is used up. When the card's value reaches 900 lire, the display figures will begin to flash on and off (this indication replaces the present audible one given by token telephones) making it easier for the caller to time the end of his call. At this point, if it is desired to continue the call, another card is inserted. If the first card was not used up, its remaining value (200, 300, 400 lire, etc.) is automatically added to the value of the second card, raising it to 2,200, 2,300, 2,400 lire, etc. The increase in value is not visible on the face of the card itself, but will be shown by the telephone set's display the next time it is inserted to make a call. In no case may this upgraded card exceed the value of 16,600 lire. If on the other hand the card is entirely used up, it is not returned to the user, but remains inside the telephone set.

Why the New Telephones?

SIP's commercial manager in Palermo, Vittorio Scaffidi, says, "We want to offer the public a more practical service and, above all, to save people the trouble of carrying tokens around with them that are heavy and a nuisance. With a card, the the user will be better supplied and can make his calls more easily." With this system, the company also hopes to reduce thefts. Only cards with no value whatever will be found in the "coin box." "The destruction of these telephones," Scaffidi concludes, "would thus be solely an act of hooliganism and not one for gain."

SIP intends to carry out a sort of general test using the electronic system that will eventually replace the existing ones, which are almost entirely electromechanical.

Coin Telephones

Yesterday morning, the SIP management announced that this year some 200 public telephones in the city will operate on 100-lire and 200-lire coins as well as on tokens.

The telephones that are to be modified will actually have three slots to accept tokens, 100-lire coins and 200-lire coins. The latter slot is to be used mainly for long distance calls, unless the caller is willing to lose 100 lire on a local call, since the telephone will not return the unused 100 lire to the caller.

9238
CSO: 5500/2216

SVALBARD CONNECTED WITH COUNTRY'S AUTOMATED DIALING SYSTEM

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 21 May 81 p 4

[Article by Mona Ostby Beck]

> [Text] Wednesday afternoon Svalbard was connected with the national and international telephone dial system. It thus became possible to dial direct to and from the island group, with the area code 080, at the same time that ordinary telephone system was established in Longyear City.

"Did we look forward to distance dialing?" Jan S. Grøndahl, district governor of Svalbard, repeated AFTENPOSTEN's question. "Oh, yes, it is obvious that it will be much better. And a great deal simpler for the government employees after this. But it will also be much more expensive. Until now we have telephoned gratis among ourselves up here; now we'll be charged just as you are. Besides we now run the risk of being rung up at all hours of the day and night!" the governor added laughingly.

The Telecommunications Board has carried out a plan in several stages to give the inhabitants of Svalbard the same offer of telephone services as is usual on the mainland. As of 1 January 1979 the old shortwave communications were replaced by satellite communications via the earth station at Eik in Rogaland and a new earth station at Isfjord Radio. Wednesday this was followed up both by a new automated exchange that is connected to the Norwegian telephone system and by the taking over of the local telephone system by Store Norske Spitsbergen Kulkompani A/S [Great Norwegian Svalbard Coal Company, Inc.].

This puts telephone subscribers on Svalbard on a par with subscribers on the mainland. The rates will also be the same, except that Svalbard subscribers will not have to pay the value-added tax, the Telecommunications Board informs us.

And for those who are wondering where the list of subscribers is to be found, it can be reported that it will be in the next edition of the telephone book, Part 10 (Nordland, Troms, Finnmark, and Svalbard), which will be ready in November of this year. Until then the public is instructed to call information (018).

But although one can now get through to Svalbard quickly by telephone, it is not sure that it will be equally easy to get there by boat these days. The first boat to Svalbard this year will be the "Framnes," which will make a number of trips there for the iron industry. The first sailing is anticipated with some concern because of the difficult ice conditions as a result of the bad weather of the last few days. And Thursday evening the governor was able to confirm that harbor conditions will still be poor. It is now hoped that the wind will shift and carry the ice out of Isfjorden, so that the boat traffic can get under way properly.

Along with the "Framnes" the sister ship "Fonnes" will come into service beginning in June. Store Norske has also chartered two 20,000-tonners that will carry coal from Svalbard to Mo in Rana.

Beginning with the first half of August fewer boats will be used in coal shipments.

Grøndahl says that tourists have already begun to come to Svalbard. There have been both Norwegians and Frenchmen there. "In general there are two types of tourist that come here," he says. "Those on round trips with the fast service [ships plying the Norwegian coast with fast boats and few calls], cruise ships, or other vessels, and those who come up here, sometimes by plane, and set out with backpacks and tents. The season for passenger ships does not begin before the middle of June."

And even though 3 of the total of 50 Norwegian explorers are already on the spot, the main expedition will not arrive before the middle of July, Thor Siggerud, an expedition leader with the Norwegian Polar Institute, tells AFTENPOSTEN.

"The groups that will work on Svalbard consist mainly of geologists, botanists, ornithologists, and glaciologists. Besides the research work itself, there will be work on the charting of the sea areas east of Svalbard."

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ADVANCED AUTOMATED MOBILE PHONE SYSTEM INTRODUCED

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 1 Jun 81 p 52

[Article by Terje Avner]

[Text] The Norwegian Telecommunications Directorate is preparing an information campaign regarding the new automated mobile telephone system which in a few months will be put into operation in Ostlandet [translator's note: East Norway, especially the more level parts of the southeast]. In the course of the next 5 years, it will be possible to reach most countries in the world by automated mobile telephone in the same way as via the ordinary telecommunications network. Thanks to the Nordic Automated Mobile Telephone Service (NMT), it will also be possible to reach a person directly anywhere in Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland.

The development of the automated mobile telephone network in Norway will take place in four stages, with the establishment of four base stations, Christian Bugge Hjort, information chief of the Telecommunications Directorate states. The first one of these stations, located in Oslo and covering the entire Ostlandet will be operative already in a few months. Next comes Bergen in 1982. The station will cover Sorlandet [translator's note: area along the southern coast and immediate inland districts of Norway] and Vestlandet [translator's note: West Norway, area west of north-south range]. Then follows Trondheim in 1984, which will cover the areas of More, Romsdal and Trondelag. The last base station--in Bodo--will be ready in 1985. The station will cover North Norway [translator's note: area north of Trondelag].

The production of the new telephones is already being marketed. The system will have many advantages over the present manual ordering system. Countries which today may be reached automatically via the usual telecommunications network may also be reached directly by automated mobile telephone. If the subscriber is in Norway, Sweden, Finland or Denmark, he can also be reached directly there. The stations "find" the subscribers automatically within these countries.

To those who already have a manual mobile telephone it will be nice to know that they can continue using this system, for it will undeniably be an economic burden to exchange it. The costs of connection and equipment are estimated at between 25,000 and 30,000 kroner.

Another advantage of the new automated system is the short-number program, i.e. one may push in a number of telephone numbers which are used frequently and instead push, for example, a double-digit number. It will, moreover, be possible to cut off the phone and reconnect it. Reconnecting of the phone has the effect that the caller is connected automatically to another preprogrammed number if the person is not present.

"The Telecommunications Directorate is now preparing an information campaign which will be launched during the third quarter of this year," Christian Bugge Hjort, information chief, states. The campaign will include advertising and pamphlets, describing the new system and the equipment required.

The goal is to be able to cover immediately the demand arising at any time. From an estimated 35,000-40,000 mobile telephones today, the Telecommunications Directorate expects an annual increase by 13.9 percent during the years 1982-1985 and a 10.3 percent increase annually during the years 1990-1993. In view of the fact that Norway today is the country which has got the largest number of mobile telephones in proportion to the number of inhabitants, the prognoses tell a lot about the interest among Norwegians in mobile telephones.

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